

PERCENT OF KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE CHILDREN WHO ARE FULLY IMMUNIZED

Objective

By 1990, at least 95 percent of children attending licensed day care facilities and kindergarten through 12th grade should be fully immunized.

Explanatory Notes

Trend data available for North Carolina are for kindergarten and first grade children and are not strictly comparable to the national objective. For both the state and the nation, however, minimum requirements for all children were the same during the period 1980-1986: 3 doses of DTP, 3 doses of OPV, 1 dose of measles, and 1 dose of rubella vaccine. Beginning in 1987, North Carolina's immunization law was changed to require 5 DTP, 4 OPV, 1 measles, 1 rubella, and 1 mumps vaccine for children entering kindergarten and first grade.

Findings

The North Carolina percentage of kindergarten and first grade children who met minimum immunization requirements far exceeded the national objective in all years 1980-1986. The state rates of 98 to 99 percent compare to 96 percent for U.S. kindergarten and first grade entrants in 1984-85 (3). A high immunization level (98.4%) was also observed among N.C. children in grades 2-12 when those children were assessed in 1980.

Based on 1978-1984 trends, the U.S. is projected to meet this objective by 1990 (3). However, vaccine price increases and parental fears of the DTP vaccine could serve to reduce immunization levels throughout the country.

Data Source

Communicable Disease Control Branch
N.C. Division of Health Services